

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director of Communications

OCE-M76-203

DATE: 10 May 1976

FROM : [REDACTED]
Chief, Communications Engineering

SUBJECT: RD&E for Communications Equipment

1. The evolution of RD&E for communications equipment has proceeded to the point where we in OC have little influence or control. This is especially true in the covert communications equipment area where the DDO is the customer and prefers to deal directly with the elements performing RD&E. Staff communications uses commercial product line--modified--and, at this point, has no RD&E requirements. Communications security requirements are also being reasonably well addressed.

2. As stated above, covert communications equipment development is a problem. The DDO, rightly or wrongly, has decided to provide input directly to the D&E'ers bypassing the Office of Communications. As much as we dislike this, it is a fact of life and one we should accept. With the exception of COMSEC matters, Commo has no further role to play in the RD&E field. By delegated authority, the D/CO does have the authority and responsibility pertaining to communications security matters. Our role then is being the operating element of the DDO for planning, managing, deploying, and supporting covert communications systems.

3. We must accept this and begin to structure the organization to respond to requirements in a timely fashion. Much equipment in the commercial world can be adapted to covert requirements; through the use of application engineering, much can be accomplished using commercial products line with the developing family of crypto devices. As an adjunct to this, we must stand ready to produce and deploy any effective systems resulting from the DDS&T effort. Our role in the development world is tracking the effort, ensuring that we are, in fact, capable of assimilating into our support network whatever may come out of the R&D effort.

DDO states requirements.

DDA determines whether requirement can be met within existing assets--reports to DDO.

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SUBJECT: RD&E for Communications Equipment

DDO levies requirement on DDS&T.

DDS&T develops equipment.

DDA evaluates and approves COMSEC.

DDA tracks for operational/field input.

DDS&T delivers preproduction evaluation model.

DDA/DDO evaluates.

DDS&T corrects deficiencies.

DDO projects future annual requirements.

DDA implements production buy and deploys.

Parallel Path:

DDA continually searches and evaluates commercial products for applications to covert communications.

4. From the above discussion, a very simple MOU can evolve. In fact, probably no agreements beyond mission and functions is necessary. Regardless of agreements, the operating element--DDO--will seek out that organization that is best serving their needs. OC can perform and must demonstrate this capability by streamlining our methodology for responding to covert communications requirements and by making maximum utilization of application engineering.

25X1A

Attachment:
MOU

Distribution:
Original - Addressee, w/att.
1 - C/OC-CS, w/att.
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Approved For Release 2001/09/04 : CIA-RDP83-00531R000100010002-7

Attachment to
OCE-M76-203

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MOU

1. The Office of Communications is responsible for providing operational, technical, and COMSEC support to the DDO for the procurement, installation, operation, and maintenance of covert communications resources. OC, on a quarterly basis, will provide to the DDO a resume of existing systems on a worldwide basis, will provide an indication of continuing maintainability of existing inventories of equipment, and will point out to the DDO our perceived needs for potential R&D. OC will plan and program for procurement of all covert communications systems as directed by the DDO. OC will formally review and approve COMSEC and crypto features during the R&D effort. As the operating element for the DDO, OC will track R&D efforts taking whatever action is necessary to ensure that the worldwide network is capable of supporting the results of the R&D effort. OC will assign an engineer to participate with the DDS&T COTR during the preproduction phase in order to prepare him for production COTR duties. OC will perform continuing market analysis using, wherever practical, commercial product line to meet DDO operational requirements.

2. The DDO will provide on an annual basis a covert requirements forecast for OC program planning purposes. The

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DDO will work with the DDS&T R&D elements to develop the R&D program. The DDO will project needs for R&D'ed systems in order that OC can program and plan for procurement and installation. The DDO will participate with the DDS&T during the R&D budget formulation and presentation process.

3. The DDS&T is responsible for performing all R&D effort, including working with the DDO to formulate the R&D program. DDS&T will propose the annual program and submit this program to the budget process. DDS&T will seek COMSEC approval from OC at mutually agreed milestones during the development cycle. The DDS&T will keep the DDO and OC aware of the R&D program status through the use of periodic briefings and written reports. At the completion of the development of the engineering and prototype models, the DDS&T will arrange for operational and technical evaluation by the DDO and OC. The DDS&T will carry all programs through the preproduction stage at which point the program will be turned over to the Office of Communications for the on-going procurement effort.